

PRONOUNS

SUBSTITUTION

Pronouns are words which act as substitutes for nouns. Pronouns may take the place of a noun and/or act in its place.

EX:

<u>Noun</u>	=	<u>Pronoun</u>
Thomas Jefferson	=	He
Catherine	=	She
Benjamin and Gerald	=	They
The Computer	=	It

If the noun has been provided in a sentence, then pronouns may be used. However if a pronoun has not been already provided, then a pronoun should not be used.

EX:

He was sad.

The reader may ask, "What was sad?" However, if you say:

Jake was hurt. He was sad.

Then, you have provided the much needed Antecedent (the original noun) to the pronoun.

POSSESSION

Pronouns may also be used to show possession. Typically, possessive pronouns stand alone.

EX:

The dog was his.

The cat was hers.

Common Possessive Pronouns:

His

Hers

Its

Theirs

Yours

Ours

DIFFERENCES WITH DETERMINERS

Pronouns stand alone, replacing the noun entirely. If the word comes before a noun, typically the word is classified as a determiner.

EX:

Lucy took her painting to an auction. It sold for thousands of dollars.

IT is the pronoun (acting alone or by itself).

EX:

This dog is rabid.

THIS is a determiner, since THIS works to define DOG in terms of specificity (i.e., which dog?).

REFLEXIVE

Pronouns may also be somewhat reflexive (referring to the self or others within social conditions).

EX:

We made the cake *ourselves*.

He made a pie by *himself*.

Common Reflexive Pronouns:

Myself

Yourself

Yourselves

Oneself

Himself

Herself

Itself

Themselves

Ourselves

DEMONSTRATIVE

Pronouns may be demonstrative (helping to show an example or examples). Typically, demonstrative pronouns stand alone.

EX:

I want that.

This is my chance to make a difference.

The particle collider is a novel invention; *this* will enable humans to study smaller particles.

Common Demonstrative Pronouns:

This

That

These

Those

INTERROGATIVE

Pronouns may be interrogative (being the foundation of a question).

EX:

Where can I buy a skateboard?

How much are skateboards?

Common Interrogative Pronouns:

What

Who

Whom

Which

How

Where

When

INDEFINITE

Pronouns may help to show things of indefinite or infinite number or quantity.

EX:

No one is home.

Someone has to be home.

Common Indefinite Pronouns:

All

Everything

Everybody

Everyone

Anything

Any

Anyone

Anybody

Some

Something

Someone

Somebody

No one

Nobody

Nothing

Neither

Both

Either

RELATIVE

Pronouns may be used to show further relationships between people and people, people and objects, etc.

EX:

The plane *which* I am flying is a Boeing 747.

The drummer *who* plays in my band is named Vinnie.

Common Relative Pronouns:

Who

Whom

Whose

Which